



March 18th, 2016 – PTO General Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced: 8:52 a.m.

Board Members Present for General Body Meeting: Amy Happ, Co-President; Elise Calisi, Secretary; Abigail Dressler, Vice Principal; Loretta Crumlish, Teacher Representative; Mary Tsacoyeanes, Teacher Representative; Debbie Dawson, Teacher Representative.

Parents, Teachers, Guests Present for General Body Meeting: Lakshmi Thiagarajan, Michelle Brown-Droese, Ranjini Reddy, Sophia Park, Michelle Manchanda, Lin Zhang, Fang Wang, Jing Zhang, Kristin Kenny, Ezili Joseph, Jane Archer, Rashmi Muralidhar.

Welcome

Amy Happ welcomed the group.

Approval of January 2016 Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were presented for review and approved.

First motion to approve minutes – Michelle Brown-Droese

Second motion to approve minutes – Ranjini Reddy

Treasurer's Report

Amy Happ gave the Treasurer's Report. The ICS put the total YTD fundraising number over 41K so we only need 3K to reach goal. Over 2K given at ICS to the Annual Fund. Giving has increased this school year from 18% to 35-40%.

Ice Cream Social

Suggestions for next year are to increase door price, continue to ask for donations for toppings and bottled water, have Breakfast with Families before the ICS.

Festival of Cultures

Fang Wang gave the update on Festival of Cultures which is being held Saturday May 14 at 5:00 p.m. at RJ Grey. There will be 5 MC's—three from Douglas and two from Conant. 2,000 people are expected to attend. Organizers are looking for 2-3 performances per country represented. They emphasize that students can choose any culture in the world to represent including USA. The dinner will be potluck style. Suggestion is to raise ticket price to \$5 for next year.

Mom's Night Out

The next Mom's Night Out will be held Thursday April 7 at a new restaurant called True West in Acton. A half-sheet flyer will be sent home in youngest-child's-folder. Flyer will ask moms to bring a friend. A daytime Mom's event is suggested for those who would rather do brunch or lunch instead of dinner.

Pennies for Patients

Amy Happ presented. Pennies for Patients is a community service fundraiser that may be repeating the fundraising the Student Council does with Pennies for Pediatrics and will look into whether or not Conant can help out with that fundraiser.

School Supply Order Forms

Amy Happ presented some materials from Staples which teachers can order at the end of the school year for the coming school year for their students. Abigail Dressler will review the program with input from teachers. The Staples program gives cash back to the PTO and has a recycling program for the packaging materials.

Willow Books Night

Michelle Brown-Droese gave the update. A teacher is needed to coordinate this event with Michelle who has reached out to the bookstore and is waiting to hear back from them. Aim to have the Willow Books Night in April or May.

Author Visits

Ranjini Reddy gave the update. Next year, Scott Magoon is visiting for the K-3 students and Rob Buyea is visiting for the 4-6 grades. The costs are \$1250 and \$1300 respectively which is about \$550 over budget. Using the profit from Movie Nights for the Author's visit is voted on and approved. New budget for 2016-17 will be \$2550.

Polar Pass

Amy Happ described the idea for a Polar Pass which is a student activity pass for the year. Several volunteers expressed interest in helping get the sale of this off the ground (Jane Archer, Rashmi Muralidar, Ezili Joseph, Sophia Park, Ranjini Reddy, Michelle Manchanda, Michelle Brown-Droese).

Board Terms (changes to PTO charter)

Amy Happ suggested a system of 2 Presidents, 2 Vice Presidents who will shadow and move up each year. There's some concern over too-long commitments discouraging volunteers from serving in a board role. The PTO has moved from "chairperson" to "team" approach for fundraising and events. Michelle Brown-Droese noted that the PTO should communicate to parents that volunteering with the PTO is a good way to influence their children's learning experience. Vote to revise charter (no vote). Discussion is postponed to next board meeting.

New Volunteers

The Room Coordinators (or, Room Parents) are suggested as potential for outreach, especially towards the K-3 parents. 152 users are on the Conant PTO facebook page; PTO aims to use it more. PTO would like to focus on mentoring as a way to gain parent volunteers.

Principal's Update

Abigail Dressler gave the update. Damian Sugrue is meeting with personnel regarding funding for renovations to the school building. The planning committee is also considering a rebuild of some Acton schools if the cost is more efficient. They have identified \$125m in capital improvement need at this time throughout the district. Some repair work is scheduled to be done to the exterior of Conant school.

Open Positions

Class gifts (need 1-2 volunteers), Cultural Enrichment (need 1-2 shadows), Hospitality (need 1-2 volunteers), K-tours (need shadows and more volunteers), Welcome Committee (Ranjini Reddy and Michelle Manchanda volunteered to work together on this), Book Fair (Michelle M. will shadow Ezili Mayo-Joseph), Craft Fair (same team as 2015)

Other

Jane Archer gave some suggestions for the Craft Fair—put the bakery table at the front lobby and offer coffee to increase profit. Include a used book sale with donations as another table making 100% profit for the school. Also, tiered pricing for vendors should be considered.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:28 a.m.

First Motion to Approve: Ranjini Reddy; Second Motion to Approve: Elise Calisi; Minutes Typed By Elise Calisi